

**CHAPTER NO. 42**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 411**

**By Representative Sharp**

**Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 300**

**By Senators Crutchfield, Cohen**

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, to authorize the issuance of "Animal Friendly" new specialty earmarked license plates.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 55-4-202(c)(7), is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated subdivision:

( ) "Animal Friendly";

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 55, Chapter 4, Part 2, is amended by adding the following as a new, appropriately designated section:

(a) Owners or lessees of motor vehicles who are residents of the State of Tennessee, upon complying with state motor vehicle laws relating to registration and licensing of motor vehicles and paying the regular fee applicable to the motor vehicle and the fee provided for in §55-4-203, shall be issued an "Animal Friendly" new specialty earmarked license plate for a motor vehicle authorized by §55-4-210(c).

(b) The new specialty earmarked plates provided for in this section shall contain an appropriate image, design or logo that depicts an animal or animals and indicates support for animal welfare.

(c)(1) The funds produced from the sale of "Animal Friendly" new specialty earmarked license plates, pursuant to § 55-4-215 shall be deposited in a special fund in the general fund to be used exclusively for grants to non-profit organizations or governmental agencies to provide low-cost spaying and neutering of unsterilized animals to prevent and/or reduce animal overpopulation. The Commissioner of Health shall make grants to eligible organizations to operate animal sterilization programs from moneys available in the special fund.


(2) There is hereby established a general fund reserve to be allocated by the General Appropriations Act which shall be known as the Animal Population Control Endowment Fund. Moneys from the fund may be expended to fund activities authorized by this section. Any revenues deposited in this reserve shall remain in the reserve until expended for purposes consistent with this section, and shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30. Any excess revenues on interest earned by such revenues shall not revert on any June 30, but shall remain available for appropriation in subsequent fiscal years. Any appropriation from such reserve shall not revert to the general fund on any June 30, but shall remain available for expenditure in subsequent fiscal years.


(3) All revenues produced from the sale and renewal of the new specialty earmarked plates authorized by this section shall be allocated in accordance with the provisions of §55-4-215.

(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of §55-4-201(c) and (d), the new specialty earmarked plate authorized by this section shall meet the minimum requirements of §55-4-201 (b)(3)(B) and qualify for initial issuance within one (1) year of the effective date of the act authorizing such plate. If the new specialty earmarked plate authorized by this section fails to meet the minimum issuance requirements of §55-4-201(b)(3)(B) within one (1) year of the effective date of the act authorizing such plate, such plate shall not be issued and the commissioner shall notify the Tennessee Code Commission that the section of Tennessee Code Annotated authorizing the issuance of such plate is, on the basis of such inactivity, to be deemed obsolete and invalid.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 1999, the public welfare requiring it.

**PASSED: March 24, 1999**

  
JIMMY RAIFEH, SPEAKER  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

  
JOHN S. WILDER  
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

**APPROVED this 31st day of March 1999**

  
DON SUNDQUIST, GOVERNOR